



THE NEW STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Accountability | World-Class Math and Science Standards | Meaningful Diploma

*Working to Improve Student Achievement Now:
Preparing Washington's Children to Succeed in Today's World*

Presentation to the Washington State School
Directors Association November 2007

Edie Harding, Executive Director State Board of Education



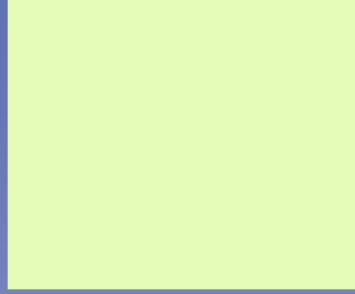
The New State Board

A Catalyst for Improvement



Our Goals

- Improve student performance dramatically.
- Provide all students the opportunity to succeed in postsecondary education, the 21st century world of work and citizenship.



How will we **work together** to ensure
no student **falls through the cracks**
and that **no school fails its students?**

Accountability Discussion at WSSDA

We are all responsible



1. Overview of state law and state programs for accountability and school improvement
2. Student achievement gaps
3. National studies
4. State Board of Education draft concepts
5. School Director input

Improving Student Achievement

Legislative requirements for SBE



(RCW 28A.305.130(4))

- Adopt performance improvement goals.
- Set cut scores on state assessments.
- Adopt criteria to identify schools and districts which are successful, in need of assistance, and those where students persistently fail.
- Identify schools and districts in which improvement measures and appropriate strategies are needed.

Improving Student Achievement

Legislative requirements continued...



- Identify performance incentives.
- Review annually the state assessment reporting system.
- Provide biennial report on progress.
- Determine when school districts should choose from a curricular and instructional materials menu (from 2007 session- SHB 1906)

Accountability: Who is Responsible?

Right now...



- Accountability system for student performance is a patchwork with local, state and federal requirements.
- The state accountability system for student performance is defined by:
 - The WASL and
 - High school graduation requirements.
- OSPI operates a voluntary assistance program to schools which is mostly for Title I schools.
- State has inadequate data for oversight.

Accountability: Who is Responsible?

Current status of voluntary improvement system in Washington



Current OSPI school improvement assistance program:

- Collaborative nature of program
- Facilitator network with potential to grow into partners with the ESDs
- Initial state investments for targeted improvement focused on schools (\$135,000 per school, three years)
- Partially integrated approach (focus on readiness to teach but less focused on readiness to learn and readiness to act)
- Voluntary participation: 63 schools chose to participate, but many eligible schools are not participating.

Accountability: We Are All Responsible

Where are we with underperforming schools?



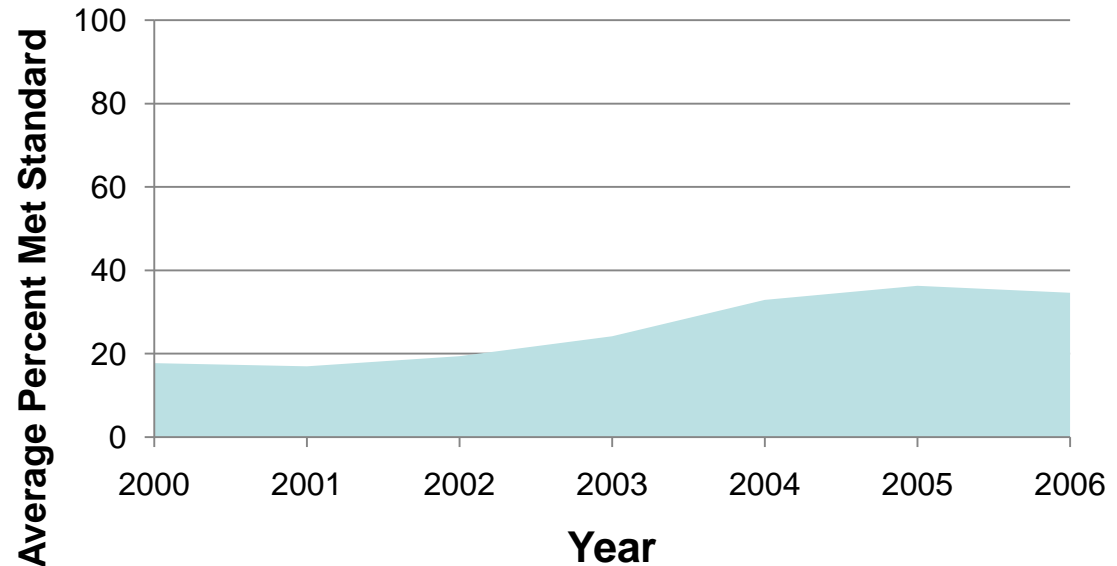
- **353** schools did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2006. These schools served **243,000** students, or one in four public school students.
- The number of schools that did not make AYP increased to over **750** schools in 2007.

Accountability: We Are All Responsible

Where are we with underperforming schools?



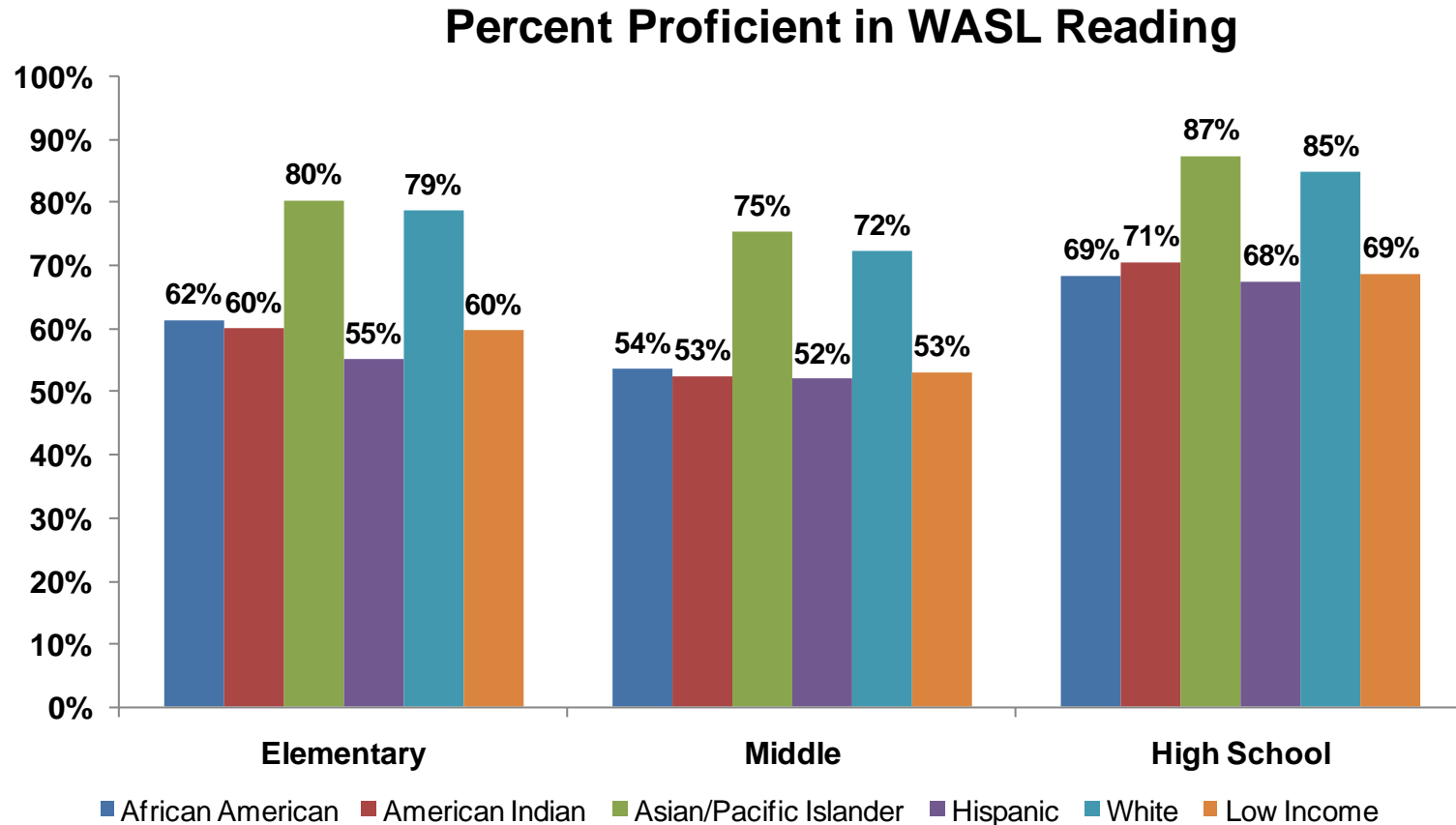
40 % of our public middle schools serving over 83,000 students annually have chronically underperformed on the Math WASL



Graph depicts only those schools with less than 50% of students meeting WASL 7th Grade Math Standard.

Accountability: We Are All Responsible

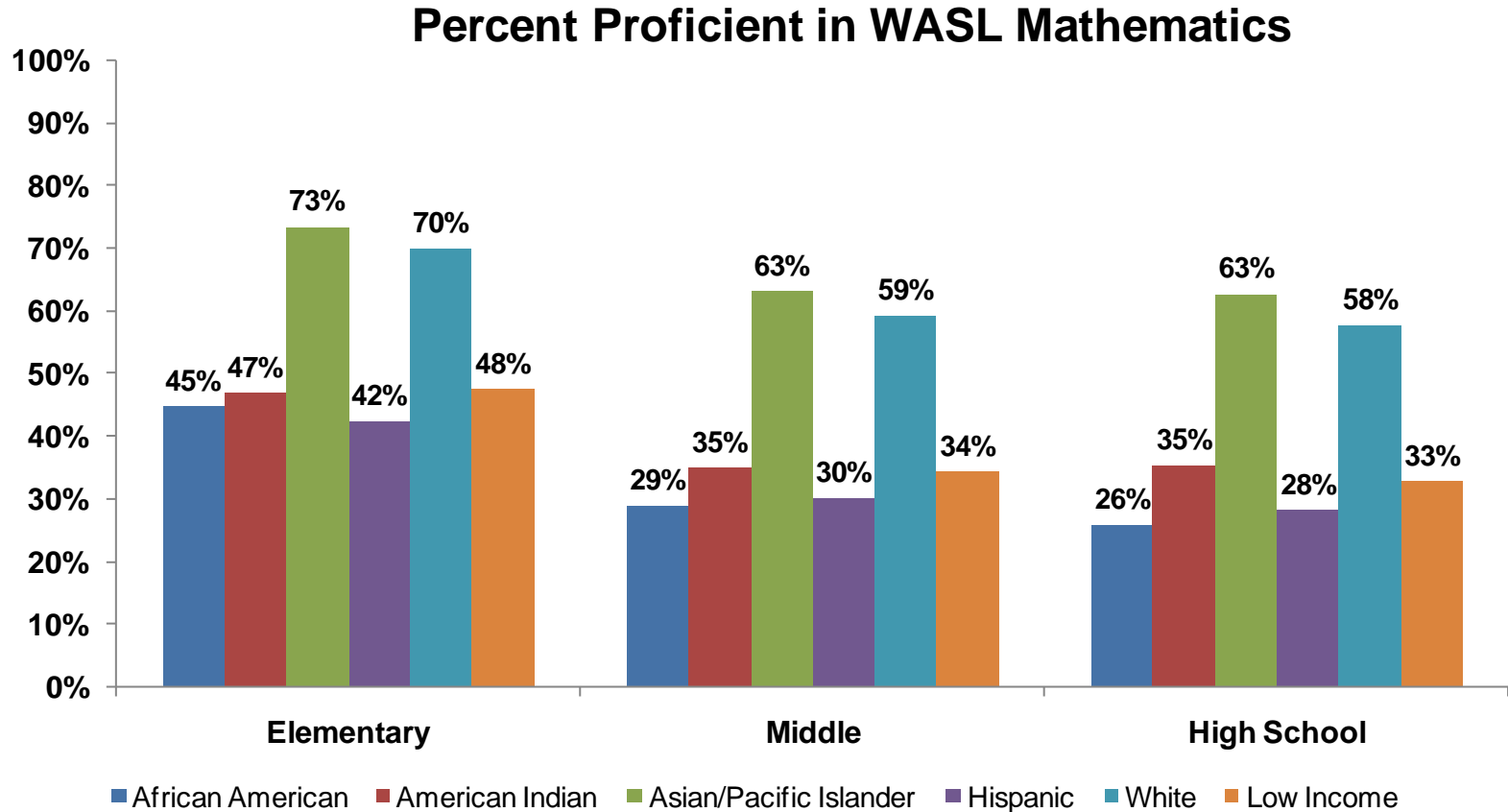
Achievement Gaps – Proficiency in 2007 WASL Reading



Note: Percent proficient is AYP percentage based on continuously enrolled with a margin-of-error added.

Accountability: We Are All Responsible

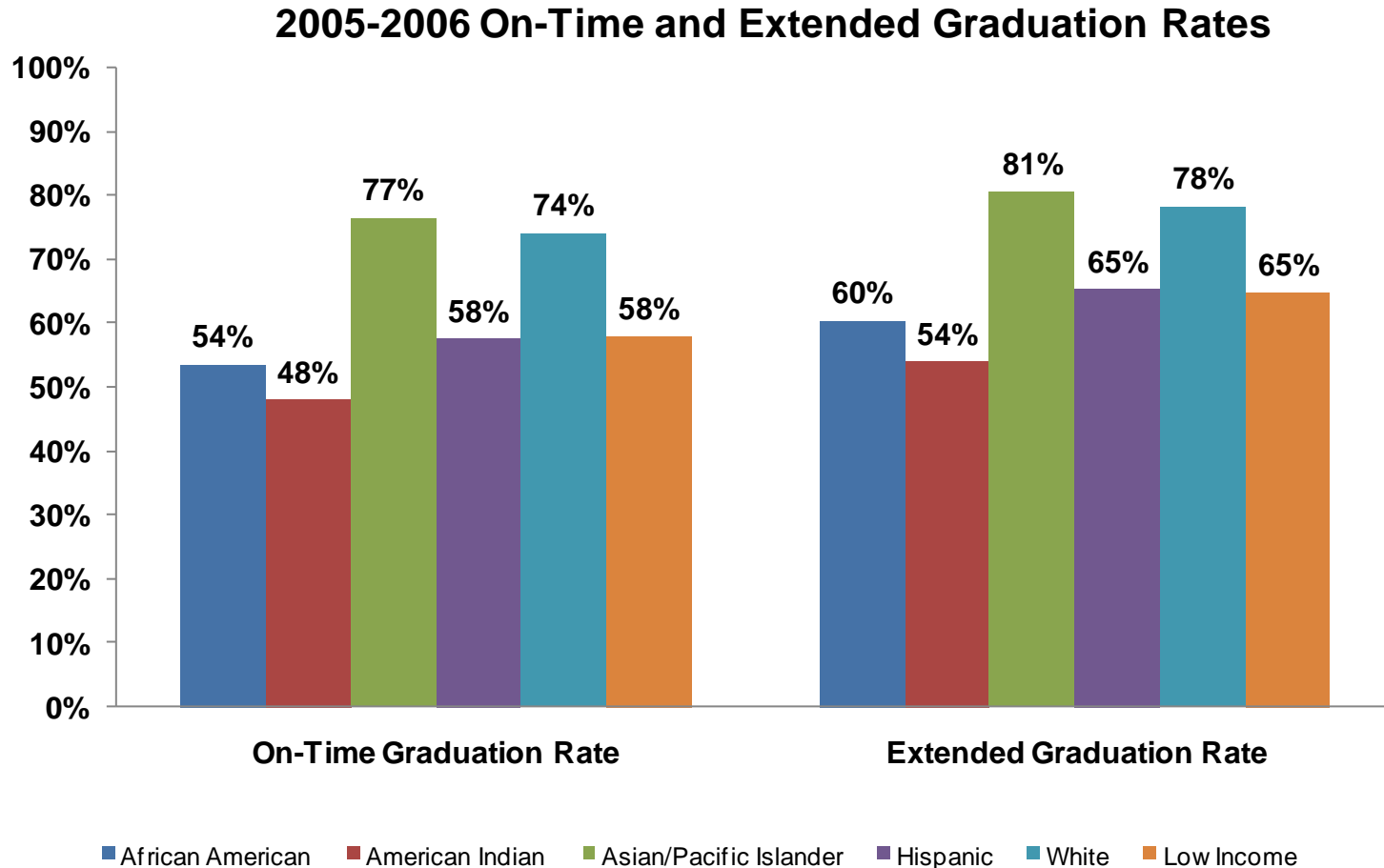
Achievement Gaps – Proficiency in 2007 WASL Mathematics



Note: Percent proficient is AYP percentage based on continuously enrolled with a margin-of-error added.

Accountability: We Are All Responsible

Achievement Gaps – High School Graduation Rate



Accountability: We Are All Responsible

National studies – recommendations for all states



- Be willing to face the issue head on
- Have patience while expecting real change
- Profile schools and understand their needs
- Establish robust and dependable data systems
- Develop a comprehensive, statewide plan for improving persistently under-performing schools

Accountability: We Are All Responsible

National studies – recommendations for all states



- Invest in leadership, particularly at school level
- Build district and state capacities
- Provide guidance on successful restructuring options
- Approve (or at least, monitor) improvement plans for identified schools
- Establish system for tracking, analyzing, and disseminating results of ongoing restructuring efforts

Expert Review and Recommendations

Mass Insight Recommendations for Continuous School Improvement



Washington should create state incentives to drive major change:

- Develop internal district capacity
- Develop external capacity to help districts
- Avoid marginal change that will yield marginal effects

Expert Review and Recommendations

Mass Insight Recommendations for Continuous School Improvement



Washington should:

- Create protected zones
- Focus on resources in cohort clusters
- Create an entity with leverage and resources that will establish partnerships and lead the turnaround effort

Accountability: We Are All Responsible

Valuing Your Input



The Board...

- Developed preliminary draft concepts for extensive and formative public input and refinement.
- Acknowledged magnitude of the implementation challenges that these proposals may present.
- Recognized the need to be especially sensitive to identifying potential implementation barriers, as well as strategies for dealing with them.

Accountability: Working Together to Improve

Key Draft Concepts for Accountability, Support and Improvement



1. **A system of accountability** with clear, appropriate indicators and measurements to identify successful schools and districts and those that need improvement.
2. **A continuous improvement assistance program** in which *all* Washington schools will be required to participate.
3. **Criteria to identify schools and districts that consistently fail to meet state standards** and proposals to require those schools and districts to take specific actions to improve performance

Accountability: Working Together to Improve

Key Draft Concepts for Accountability, Support and Improvement



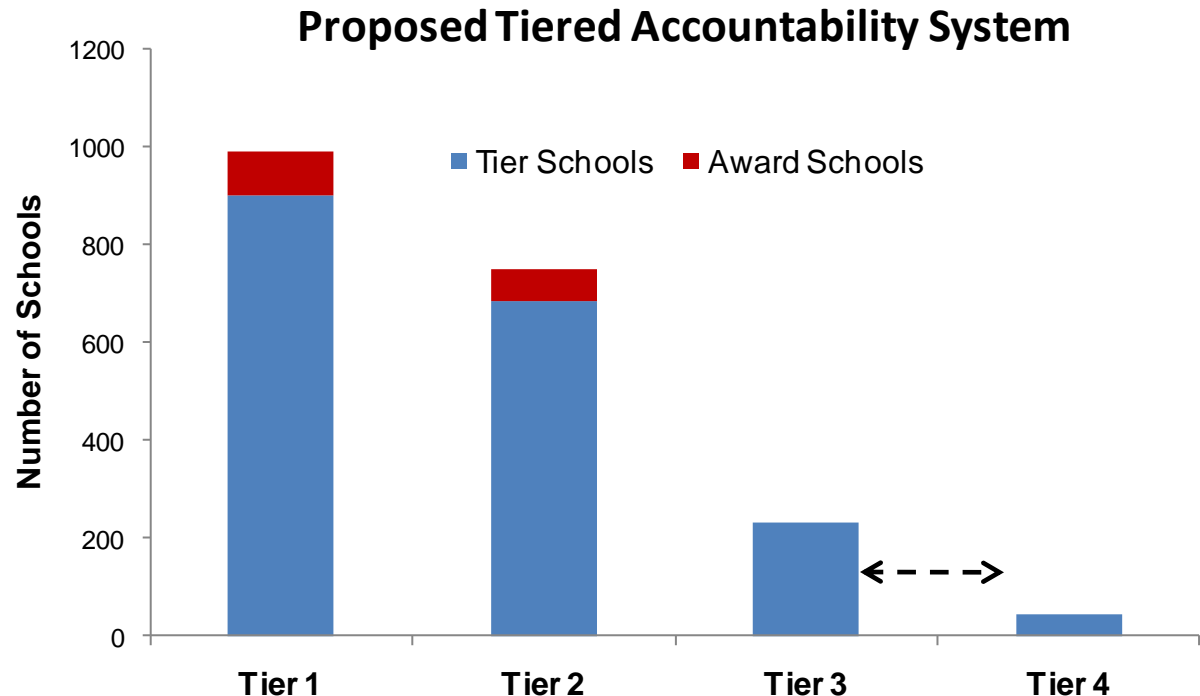
1. **A system of accountability** with clear, appropriate indicators and measurements:
 - Create an accountability index that consists of multiple measures
 - **AYP Status** – School met/not met AYP target and step in school improvement
 - **Achievement Status** – School percent proficient, including all grades and content areas tested plus graduation rate
 - **Improvement Status** – Gain in Learning Index

Accountability: Working Together to Improve

Key Draft Concepts for Accountability, Support and Improvement



2. A continuous improvement assistance program in which *all* Washington schools will be required to participate.



Accountability: Working Together to Improve

Key Draft Concepts for Accountability, Support and Improvement



2. A continuous improvement assistance program...

- Build capacity at district level
- Be proactive:
 - Recognize schools with improvement
 - Provide all districts and schools with a self assessment tool to analyze their effectiveness in variety of areas
 - Provides schools with data to understand their students' performance
 - Assist schools/districts more intensively that lack capacity or have low performance in tier 3

Accountability: Working Together to Improve

Key Draft Concepts for Accountability, Support and Improvement



3. Criteria to identify schools and districts that consistently fail to meet state standards and proposals to require those schools and districts to take specific actions to improve performance.

- Assist a small group of schools “tier 4” clustered in districts with turnaround strategies customized upon the needs of the schools and district.
- Go beyond the accountability index to understand “on the ground” issues the school is facing.

Next Steps for the Board

Accountability



- Hold Board work sessions – January-June 2008
- Conduct public outreach and community meetings for public input across state – Spring 2008.
- Host symposium with national experts and invite policy makers to participate – Spring 2008
- Adopt final package on accountability in July 2008 for 2009 session.
- Provide input to basic education funding task force 2007-08.

Now We'd Like to Hear From You...

Questions for Small Group Discussion



- What do you think about the draft concepts? Are there elements that you agree or disagree with? Why?
- What are the current obstacles that make it difficult for your district (schools) to improve student achievement and what tools do you need to overcome them?
- What are the current opportunities for your district (schools) to improve student achievement? And what tools do you need to take advantage of these opportunities?
- What should be the local school board's role in continuous school/district improvement?